Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

(c) No, Sir.

Government support to noncommercial public schools in Assam

1768. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent of the non-commercial public schools in Assam run by public with Government concurrence are yet to be supported by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such public institutes in Assam running without any support either from Central or State Government, category-wise;

(c) whether non-commercial colleges established and run by public are also deprived of UGC grants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to launch any special scheme to cover the students and teachers of these deprived institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The matter pertains to the State Government of Assam. The Central Government has no scheme to support private unaided schools in Assam.

(c) to (f) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to the institutions of higher education which are covered under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. Self financing institutions of higher education are not provided with financial assistance by UGC.

Establishment of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

1769. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to establish more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested Central Government for the establishment of an IISER in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?